

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 129180
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /049 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:MLGREENE:MRC
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:MLGREENE
-----074737 220241Z /62

R 212233Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 129180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:IR

SUBJECT:LETTER FROM SHAH
FROM NEA/IRN

1. WE HAVE MAY 8 LETTER BELOW FROM SHAH TO PRESIDENT.
REPLY NOW BEING DRAFTED.

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

I SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE
RECENT TRAGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. I HAD KNOWN
ALL ALONG THAT EVENTS IN THAT COUNTRY WOULD FINALLY TAKE
SUCH A TURN, BUT THESE OCCURRED FIVE YEARS EARLIER THAN I
HAD EXPECTED. ALL OUR PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES
WERE MADE WITH THIS CONTINGENCY IN MIND, BUT WE WILL NOW
HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH EVENTS. SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ASSURING OUR DEFENCE AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WILL
REST UPON OURSELVES AND PARTLY ON THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA FOR THE ARMS WE WANT TO BUY. IN ADDITION, THE
OIL COMPANIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE AGREEMENTS AND WHO HAVE
RECENTLY DECREASED SHARPLY THEIR LIFTING OF IRANIAN OIL

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WILL ALSO HAVE TO ASSUME A MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS
REGARD BY PURCHASING MORE OIL THUS MAKING INCREASED FUNDS
AVAILABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PLANS.

2. IN THESE ANXIOUS AND TRAGIC TIMES, WE FEEL ENCIRCLED
AND, AS I HAD MENTIONED TO YOU BEFORE, MR. PRESIDENT, OUR
MAIN SOURCE OF CONCERN IS THE PRESSURE EXERTED FROM

CERTAIN QUARTERS TO PUSH FORWARD TOWARDS THE INDIAN OCEAN. IF THIS SHOULD EVER MATERIALIZE, IT COULD DRASTICALLY ALTER THE ENTIRE GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE PRECARIOUS EQUILIBRIUM IN THIS REGION AND IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. FULLY COGNIZANT OF THIS THREAT, I CAN ASSURE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO BRING INDIA AND PAKISTAN TOGETHER AND, I ALSO HOPE THAT THESE COUNTRIES WILL BOTH REALIZE AND BE COMPLETELY ALIVE TO THE DANGER CONFRONTING THEM.

3. IN OUTLINING THE ABOVE, I HAVE REFERRED TO THE THREAT POSED ON OUR EASTERN FRONTIERS WITHOUT MENTIONING THE DANGER FACING OUR WESTERN FLANKS, INCLUDING THE MENACE TO HASHEMITE JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND THE SUDAN WHERE EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT POLITICAL ORDERS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STRESS THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS GIVING EVERY PRIORITY TO EXPANDING ITS COOPERATION WITH THESE COUNTRIES. GIVEN THE PRESENT SITUATION, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SOME ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE ADOPTED TO SAFEGUARD THE STATUS QUO IN THE FREE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION. IN THE CONTEXT, I AM VERY GLAD TO OBSERVE THAT YOU HAVE RECOMMENDED THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ON THE EXPORTATION OF ARMS TO TURKEY AND, I HOPE THAT THIS MEASURE WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WILL BE PASSED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, I ALSO HOPE THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD REALIZE THE POTENTIAL DANGER INHERENT IN THE INABILITY TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. I WANTED TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT IN VIEW OF THE VERY CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS VITALLY STRATEGIC AREA. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD GIVE ME YOUR CONSIDERED OPINIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS IN DUE COURSE.

WITH KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY,

M. R. PAHLAVI VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE129180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLGREENE:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780214-1129
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780536/aaaabdvw.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8bd08a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2622844
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM SHAH FROM NEA/IRN
TAGS: PPDC, PINS, MPOL, IR, AF, US, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8bd08a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014